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Congress of the United States

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Washington, DC 20515

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Rep Schneider

O/CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS

88-0477

February 5, 1988

Honorable Frank Carlucci
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

THE ATTACHED LTR WAS GIVEN TO
HOUSE AFFAIRS/OCA
FOR DDI/OEA {18FEB88}

STAT

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy Richard Perle told the House Armed Services Panel on Defense Burdensharing that the annual Pentagon report on "Allied Contributions to the Common Defense" contains hokey figures.

In testimony before the panel last week, Mr. Perle said,

"...the truth is that the administration doesn't work as hard at this as it ought to. The exercise in preparing the Annual Report on Burdensharing is largely an exercise in thinking of ways to put the best possible gloss on some pretty dismal figures. I know it because I superintended it for a while--and we look for statistics that make the allies look good."

A growing number of the American people feel abused by our allies. They feel that we spend a much greater portion of our wealth on the common defense; that we have too large a number of soldiers stationed on their territory; and that the allies use the money they save on defense to subsidize their trade, creating our enormous trade deficit. While these perceptions may be overdrawn, they reflect a real and profound public sentiment

The Defense Department has the statutory responsibility of reporting on allied contributions to the common defense. If the departments' information is not credible, the popular resentment towards the allies will grow. You do not do any service, in the long run, to the strength of our alliances by publishing a biased and misleading report.

As a result of Mr. Perle's admissions, I urge you to review the "Report on Allied Contributions to the Common Defense" from the period 1981-1987 and make the appropriate corrections.

Sincerely,

Patricia Schneider
Congresswoman

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For Release: For Immediate Release, February 5

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**PAT SCHROEDER ASKS CARLUCCI TO CORRECT COOKED NUMBERS IN
PENTAGON BURDENSARING REPORT**

U.S. Rep. Pat Schroeder (D-Colorado) today asked Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci to make corrections to the Pentagon's annual " Report on Allied Contributions to the Common Defense.", in the wake of an admission by a former Defense Department official that the numbers in the report are cooked.

Rep. Schroeder, who chairs the House Armed Services Panel on Defense Burdensharing, wrote the letter in response to the testimony of Richard Perle, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy in the Reagan Administration. Perle, in his testimony before the Panel on February 2, admitted that the Department of Defense purposely looks for statistics that make U.S. allies look good in contributing their fair share of the common defense burden.

In his remarks before the panel, Perle stated, " ...the truth is that the administration doesn't work as hard at this as it ought to. The exercise in preparing the Annual Report on Burdensharing is largely an exercise in thinking of ways to put the best possible gloss on some pretty dismal figures. I know it because I superintended it for a while--and we look for statistics that make the allies look good."

[A copy of Rep. Schroeder's letter to Secretary Carlucci is attached.]
